

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2004.

In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected Claim 29, and claims dependent therefrom, under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As the Examiner has noted the phrase “the steps of converting...” in Claim 29 has no antecedent basis.

In response to the rejection under 35 USC §112, Applicant has amended Claim 29 to correct the stated reference to “converting” to --connecting--. The term “connecting” finds proper antecedent basis in Claim 29.

In response to the amendment to Claim 29, reconsideration of the rejection under 35 USC § 112 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has further rejected Claims 29-31 and 53-59 under 35 USC §103 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,541,840 to Gurne et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,366 to Fieramosa et al. Claims 60 and 61 have been indicated to be allowable.

Applicant has amended the Claims to incorporate the allowable subject matter. After correcting the reference to “converting” in Claim 29. The allowable claims are understood to encompass Claims 32-52, 60 and 61.

Independent Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the substance of dependant Claims 30 and 32.

Independent Claim 53 has been amended to incorporate the substance of dependant Claim 60.

New independent claims have been added to incorporate the substance of other allowable dependant claims.

New independent Claim 62 has been added to incorporate the substance of independent Claim 29 and dependant Claim 34.

New independent Claim 83 has been added to incorporate the substance of independent Claim 29 and dependant Claim 36.

New independent Claim 103 has been added to incorporate the substance of independent Claim 29 and dependant Claim 37.

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New independent Claim 123 has been added to incorporate the substance of independent Claim 29 and dependant Claim 38.

New independent Claim 143 has been added to incorporate the substance of independent Claim 53 and dependant Claim 61.

Dependant Claims have been added depending from the new independent claims. The new dependant claims are based upon the existing dependant claims.

In view of the foregoing the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Should any outstanding matters remain, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 8, 2004

By:



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